

Am agitation, providing excellent oxidation and preventing any sediments created by oxidation from accumulating.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please replace the original abstract with the attached abstract, which is provided on a separate sheet.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 7 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 1-6 as follows:

(A copy of the marked-up version of the amended claims is attached to this Amendment.)

1. (amended) A wet-gas desulfurizing apparatus which removes oxides of sulfur from combustion exhaust gas by scrubbing the combustion exhaust gas with an absorption liquid which contains an alkali, said apparatus comprising:

AS a branch pipe for circulating the absorption liquid, said branch pipe extending into a collection tank through a wall of said collection tank and having a discharge end, which discharges the circulating absorption liquid into the absorption liquid in the collection tank, and an internal diameter D; and

an air-blowing pipe for injecting air into said branch pipe, said air-blowing pipe having an end inserted into said branch pipe at an insertion point located between 3D and 10D from the discharge end of said branch pipe.

2. (amended) A wet-gas desulfurizing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a plurality of branch pipes, wherein said branch pipe branches from a distribution pipe downstream of a circulation pump on said distribution pipe which connects the collection tank and a spraying means for spraying the absorption liquid into the combustion exhaust gas.

3. (amended) A wet-gas desulfurizing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the end of said air-blowing pipe inserted into said branch pipe is configured as a semicircular trough facing downstream toward the collection tank.

4. (amended) A wet-gas desulfurizing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said end of said air-blowing pipe inserted in said branch pipe has an internal diameter of about 0.4D to 0.7D.

5. (amended) A wet-gas desulfurizing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein an orifice is provided in said branch pipe, upstream from said insertion point where said air-blowing pipe is inserted into said branch pipe, and said insertion point is located in a region of negative pressure created by said orifice, said region located downstream of said orifice in said branch pipe.

6. (amended) A wet-gas desulfurizing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said orifice has a diameter which is about $\frac{2}{3}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of said branch pipe diameter.

REMARKS

Favorable consideration and allowance are respectfully requested for claims 1-6 in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. The specification,